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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASUNCION 1502

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MASS, PA
SUBJECT: (U) CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR
PARAGUAY

REF: USODC ASUNCION 171910Z FEB 84

1. (LOU) THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING COMMITTEE VOTE ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR FY85, AND SPECIFICALLY ON THE QUESTION OF IMET FOR PARAGUAY. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ALREADY SPOKEN BY TELEPHONE WITH CONGRESSMAN BARNES, AND THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO TAILOR THE MESSAGE FOR HIM TO REFLECT THIS FACT. APART FROM THIS MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR, CONGRESSMAN BARNES HAS SUGGESTED THAT ANY WRITTEN MATERIALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT JUSTIFYING OUR IMET PROGRAM FOR PARAGUAY WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL FOR THE COMMITTEE. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DRAW FROM THE REFERENCED MESSAGE IN PARTICULAR FOR THIS PURPOSE.

2. (U) BEGIN TEXT: DEAR CONGRESSMAN (); I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONSIDER FAVORABLY THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL MILITARY AND TRAINING FOR PARAGUAY IN THE FY1985 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL WHICH IS NOW BEFORE THE CONGRESS. THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN FOR ALLOCATING \$50,000 OF THESE FUNDS FOR PARAGUAY IS, QUITE FRANKLY, SOMEWHAT LESS THAN I CONSIDER TO BE NECESSARY. NONETHELESS, EVEN THAT SMALL AMOUNT IS A VITAL TOOL IN OUR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE THE EVOLUTION OF A MORE OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN PARAGUAY. THE MILITARY ARE A CRUCIAL FACTOR IN SUCH AN EVOLUTION IN THE FUTURE, AND OUR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT MILITARY TRAINING IN THE U.S. OFTEN HAS A SIGNIFICANT AND LASTING EFFECT ON THE ATTITUDES OF INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS TOWARD POLITICAL VALUES AND BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. (U) LET THERE BE NO MISTAKE. I AND THE MEMBERS OF MY MISSION KNOW FULL WELL OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS WHICH EXIST IN PARAGUAY. WE MAKE NO EXCUSES FOR THEM. INDEED, YOU WILL FIND OUR ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON PARAGUAY A FRANK AND HONEST APPRAISAL OF THE SITUATION HERE WHICH PULLS NO PUNCHES. BUT IF WE HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS HERE -- AND WE DO -- THIS IS PRECISELY THE SITUATION IN WHICH MILITARY TRAINING IN THE U.S. CAN BE ONE OF OUR

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IMPORTANT TOOLS IN ADVANCING OUR POLICY OF WORKING STEADILY
TO ENCOURAGE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES.

4 (U) I AM FAMILIAR WITH AND RESPECT THE SINCERELY HELD
VIEWS OF SOME ON THE COMMITTEE THAT WE SHOULD TERMINATE
EVEN THIS MOST MODEST AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE TO PARAGUAY. I
AM CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT WE WOULD BE DEPRIVING OURSELVES
OF AN IMPORTANT TOOL IN ADVANCING OUR POLICY IF THE
ADMINISTRATION IS NOT GRANTED THESE FUNDS FOR PARAGUAY. I
HOPE THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED
INCLUSION OF THESE FUNDS FOR PARAGUAY IN THE SECURITY
ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. END TEXT.

5. (U) AS A RESULT OF CONGRESSMAN ROBERT GARCIA'S PRIVATE
VISIT TO PARAGUAY EARLIER THIS YEAR, HE AND THE AMBASSADOR
KNOW EACH OTHER AND THE MISSION HAS DISCUSSED THIS
ISSUE WITH THE CONGRESSMAN. HENCE, THE MESSAGE TO HIM
FROM THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD BE "DEAR BOB."
DAVIS

END OF MESSAGE

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